

NARRATIVE AND DISCOVERY

Of several very
REMARKABLE PASSAGES

Relating to the

Horrid Popish Plot

[As they fell within the Knowledge of
Mr. MILES PRANCE of *Covent-Garden*, Goldsmith.
VIZ.

- I. His Depositions concerning the *Plot* in General, and a Particular Design against the Life of His SACRED MAJESTY.
- II. The whole Proceedings touching the Murther of Sir EDMUND BURY GODFREY, and the particular Circumstances thereof.
- III. A Conspiracy to murder the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftsbury.
- IV. The Traiterous Intrigues and Immoralities of divers Popish Priests.

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DUBLIN,

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MR. WILLIAM FRANKS of Great Garden, Goldsmith.

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- I. His Depositions concerning the Plot in General, and a Particular of the same.
- II. The whole Proceedings touching the Murder of Sir EDWARD MASTERY.
- III. The whole Proceedings touching the Murder of Sir EDWARD MASTERY, and the particular Circumstances thereof.
- IV. A Conspiracy to murder the Right Honourable the Earl of STAIR.
- V. The Traitorous Intrigues and Immoralities of several Popish Priests.

Published by J. and W. G.

DUBLIN.

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Epistle Dedicatory

TO ALL

PROTESTANTS

Look upon the following *Narrative* as justly due to the World, whether I respected my *Self or Town*: for as I am bound to *disburden* my own Conscience by a full and Impartial *Discovery* of what I know, relating to this horrid, detestable *Papish Plot*, and to endeavour to render my Acknowledgments as publick as the *Evils* wherein I have been involv'd: So I am under the Obligations of *Charity* to Contribute All I can to your *Information* and *Satisfaction*; That both the present and Posterity may take right Measures of *Papery*, as a thing so destructive to Government and Humane Society in general, and so directly opposite to all the *Ennobling*, Holy, Humble, Meek and Peaceable Designs of *True Christianity*. That the *Better Roman-Catholic* any person is, the worse man becomes, and look how much more devout, so much the more dangerous. For as when the *Philistines* had once deprived *Sampson* of his *fight*, they made him *grinde in their Mill* at their pleasure; so when people shut their eyes, and give up themselves to be led, blindfold by the Nose with a strong deceit. That they are Embarked in a Church that cannot *Err*, (which is the *Corner-stone* of the *Romish Building*, and the first Principle they insist upon, although in truth, by that *Church* is meant nothing more than the *surprising*, *Domineering Pope*, and his *Covetous*, *Juggling*, *Self-designing* *Policy*.) After, I say, they are brought into this slavish hoodwinked condition, no wonder, if they be led forwards by the same men, to the most wicked Practices, as well as false Opinions. For as the Understanding is directed, the man, if he have any thing of a zealous temper, or be firm to the Religion he professes, will suitably Act, and consequently may with ease be seduced to think he does God the best service, when indeed he most violates all laws of God, Nature and Man.

This I may the more firmly avouch, because I must acknowledge my self

to have been an unhappy Example of it, and therefore although these
minable Princip'es and Practices of the *Roman Church* are already excellen
laid open by a multitude of Learned men, (for *She* has bestow'd too ma
sad instances thereof on the World, and this Nation in particular,) Yet wh
have to say, being matter of *Fact*, so lately done, and wherein I my self
so nearly concern'd, it may (though never so meanly delivered,) possibly
some be of use, more effectually to prevail with them.

The matters herein discovered are of a various, but all of them of a m
black and villainous nature; some relate to the Plot in general, when
you may perceive how far the design was spread, and how no small num
(to my knowledge) were privy thereunto, and certainly the poison m
be most virulent at the *Root* when so many little *Twigs* were therewith in
eted. You will find here (besides what hath been already discovered a
proved by others) notice of a cursed hand that durst resolve to attempt
Sacred Life of our most Gracious Sovereign; a Prince, who besides the a
ful stamp of Heaven in his Character and Dignity, and the dread Life-gua
of Sacred Precepts, *Not to touch the Lords Anointed*, carries in His Pers
such charms of Sweetness, Goodness, Clemency and Indulgence, as mig
secure him from Violence even amongst Heathens and Savages; but no Qu
lity or Innocence is Armour of proof against a Popish Knife; no Virtue
sufficient to guard any from the Assassinations of a throw-pac'd Jesuited *R
man-Catholick*.

And certainly the Murther of that Loyal Protestant-Magistrate, Sir *E
mund-bury Godfrey*, was a thing so hellish in it self; and yet through Go
Over-ruling Providence, so very considerable in its influences to this po
Nations preservation, That I am confident it will be no mean satisfaction
all good Protestants to be ascertained of all (even the smallest) *Circumstan
ces* relating thereunto; which as far as came within my knowledge, I hav
here freely and faithfully set forth, without adding a word beyond the Truth
out of prejudice, or any sinister end; or concealing any thing for my ow
Reputation; For though to *commit Sin* be the greatest of *shame*, yet ingent
ously and penitently to *confess* it, to the Glory of God, and warning of ou
Neighbour, is no disgrace, but the greatest *Honour*, and the *best service* a
duced Criminal can be capable of, or able to perform.

Nor was their other Conspiracy against the Life of that Noble Lord, the
Right Honourable the Earl of *Shaftsbury* herein likewise set forth, less wick
ed and barbarous on their part in the *design*, though *frustrated* by the *Pro
vidence* of God, who I trust will continually bring to nought all the muchie
vous Counsels of these *Romish Achitophels*, and cast the cruel Devices of such
Assassinates on their own heads.

to all Protestants.

As for that part which concerns the *Ill Lives* of several of their Priests, the same is not inserted out of any *Spleen* or *Ill will* to their Persons, (for to several of them in the Course of my *Trade* I have been beholden, as far as they were my Customers) but to give our *English World* a Taste of the practices of the Leading men of that Apostate Church, and to persuade, if possible, Lay-Romanists, to consider what kind of Persons they are, on whose lives they so blindly *pin their Faith*, and to whose Conduct they Trust in a matter of such unspeakable Importance, as the Salvation or Eternal destruction of their Souls: And this I the rather recommend, and hope may be prevalent with others, because it had some weight with my self; for next to objections on the odious *Plot* they were carrying on, and the vile *murder* they had engaged me in, The certain knowledge of the close hypocrisie or *Prophaness* and *lewd Lives* of their Ghostly Fathers (at least most of which I had the unhappines to be intimately acquainted with, which were a few, though I accuse not All in that particular) had a strong Influence awaken my thoughts to quit their Communion; As conceiving that must be a bad Cause which us'd such wicked means to support it, and that it was very likely *That* should be the true Religion, which had no better Influence on the Conversations of those who were its *Priests* and chief Promoters. The far greatest part of this whole Narrative hath already been *attested up- on Oath*: As for the rest that is therein asserted, as on my own knowledge, I will at any time be ready to justify and prove the same: And what I received information from others, is every where so express'd, with the Reasons and circumstances inducing the credit I gave thereunto. For as I was educated amongst them from my Childhood, so I had a great acquaintance and familiarity with many of the Fathers and most zealous persons of that party at the Town, having been several years her Majesties Goldsmith, & the chief of my Trade depending on Priests & others of the *Rom. Cath. persuasion*. The reason why I presume to dedicate this mean Narrative to so great a number as all you worthy Protestants in general, seemeth to me just, because *frank and excusable*, because in some sort *necessary*; I make you as it were All witnesses to these Presents, not only that there may be so many *living witnesses* with me, if ever either there should be any wilful untruth found therein, or I should fall back, (which God forbid) from that pure Religion which you profess, and I most cordially though lately have embraced; but also more especially thereby to engage your *united Prayers* to God, as well for my *perseverance* and growth in Christian knowledge, as for my *preservation* against the rage of those restless enemies, from whom I am to expect the *worst* that *revenge* can suggest, or *cruel malice* execute; partly for my relinquish-
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The Epistle Dedicatory, &c.

ment of them, but much more for disclosing some of their Plot which already they have not been wanting, for besides lies and flanders industriously spread, to vilifie and make me odious, and the depriving me (as in them lies) of the means of a Livelihood, I was of late credibly inform'd of a resolv'd design against my life, and that three persons had dogged for some time for that purpose: *But the Lord is my God, of whom I then shall say as aid:* To his infinite protection I resign my self, and next under him to that of his *Vicègerent*, from whose most Gracious Majesty, as likewise from the noble Lords of his most Honourable Council, as well as the Right Honourable House of Peers, I have upon all occasions found all just encouragement and very great *indulgence*, which with a thankful heart I desire to commemorate, and publish for the encouragement of others.

The *Romanists* (especially the *Jesuits* and *Priests*, who sway there at their pleasure) are a most vigilant and unwearied sort of people to propagate their false Doctrines, and spread their tyranny; I speak it experimentally who have had the advantage in a great measure to know them, no defeat daunt them, nor scarce any disappointments discourage them: no sooner is a Plot discovered, but they presently lay another. For 'tis a Rule that the *Priests* injoyn their people to believe, I may I am confident say of most, firmly as their Creed, that their Religion shall infallibly one day or other be restored and established again in *England*; and being thus verily perswaded they bear up under all Miscarriages, and still vigorously pursue the main design, though in new methods, and with different Instruments. And therefore will certainly concern Protestants to be as careful and active to prevent their designs, and preserve their own Religion and Lives, as the other are to destroy both: you have now an opportunity put into your hands to crush the Cockatrice's egg; O may you all in your several places and stations improve it with wisdom, and with courage, and with integrity: For if the neck of the Design be not now thoroughly broken, if Popery be not now hamstring'd in *England*; if the Serpent's head be not bruiz'd, and the Vitals destroyed, may justly be feared, that it will revive again, and then the Plot will be laid to sleep, & not prevented, & the latter end prove worse than the beginning.

But who am I, to advise so great and so wise a Body? May the God of Wisdom advise you and direct you, and protect you in his Truth and in his Faith. And so begging all your Prayers on my behalf, I shall conclude, and subscribe myself

Covent-Garden,
May 26 1679.

*A Hearty Well-wisher to the Protestant Church
and the welfare of the King and People,*

MILES PRANCE

A
NARRATIVE
OF
The whole PROCEEDINGS touching the
MURDER
OF
EDMONDBURY GODFREY
AND
Several other Passages relating to the Horrid Popish Plot,
Which came within the Knowledge of MILES PRAUNCE
Of *St. Giles's in the Fields*, in the County of *Middlesex*,
GOLDSMITH.

Miles Praunce was from his Infancy bred up in that Perswasion, which calls it self the Roman Catholick Religion, having several very near Relations engaged therein; and being under the strong Prejudices of Education, and continual Incitements of the Priests, was very zealous for advancing that Church; being made believe, That in order to that end, no means ought to be avoided or esteemed unlawful.

He had, by long Conversation, contracted as large and intimate an Acquaintance both with the Priests and Jesuits residing in *England*, (especially about *London*) as with Persons of Quality of the Romish Profession, as any man of his Circumstances was capable of.

He doth well know, that for divers years last past, it hath been a general Opinion and Expectation amongst Papists, That their Religion shou'd in some short time be publicly re-established in *England*. And this vain Conceit their Priests did always and insensibly nourish in them, but with words more open and peremptory here late, than before: so that he, as well as others, had for several years, a general Intimation, That some great thing was shortly to be done for the Roman Catholick Cause, and that the Redemption (as they were wont to call it) was drawing nigh. But with direct and particular Information he received of the Plot, or any formed Design and Resolution to take Arms, was near two years ago, on the occasion, and in the manner following, viz.

One Mr. Townley of Townley in Lancashire; a Gentleman of a very considerable Estate, coming up to London with his two Sons, in order to carry them over to Doway, there to be brought up: For that is the general practice of the Popish Gentry, to send over their Children thither, being made believe, that we have no good method of Learning in our English Schools or Universities; but that the onely great Masters of Education in the World are the Jesuits. By which means, not onely our Nation is scandaliz'd, and the wealth thereof privately drain'd away, but also it comes to pass, that the Children of so many Noble & Considerable Families, being bred from their tender years wholly under their Tuition, they have the better opportunity to instill Traiterous and Disloyal Principles into their minds, plant in them an endless hatred against the Protestant Religion, & in general, gain such an Ascendant over them, that as they were their Masters and Tutors in their Youth, so they behave themselves as their Governours all their lives afterwards: the Estates of many Popish Gentry being as absolutely at the Priests dispose, as at their own: These things he knows to be true, and of very pernicious Consequence; and therefore hopes 'tis no unseasonable digression to mention them.

This Mr. Townley coming to Town on this occasion, did likewise bring up with him his two Brothers to keep him Company, and took Lodgings at one Airies house in Drury-lane, where John Fenwick a notorious Jesuit and Arch-traitor, now in custody, then had his residence: where, after they had continued some short time, the said Mr. Townley and one of his Brothers, went over to Doway with the two Lads, and left the other here; who, in the absence of his Brothers declared very often to Mr. Praunce Wives Brother, and to one Adamson a Watch-maker, That when his Brothers came back from Flanders, they expected to receive Commissions from the Lord Bellasis and other Catholick Lords concerned, for the raising of men to carry on the Catholick Cause. And this his Brother and the said Adamson several times told again to Mr. Praunce at Pedley's house in Vere-street, where was kept a frequent Club consisting of none but Papists.

That during the time that the Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Shafisbury, the Lord Wharton, and Lord Salisbury, were confined in the Tower, one Mr. Keigbly, a popish son (reputed) of good Estate, was pleas'd in discourse to express his joy and satisfaction for such their Confinement: For, said he, Now is the time for the Promoting of the Catholick Religion: (meaning Popery); and if his Royal Highness be but sure, and will follow the business closely, which he said Catholicks had good grounds to hope he would do, and we can but strike whilst the Iron is hot, and not lose opportunities, I do not doubt but our Religion may speedily be settled in England: for no juncture of time can appear more favourable for the Business than the present.

That about a year ago, being in Company with one Singleton a popish Priest, at the house of one Hall a Cook in Ivy lane, London, the said Priest, in the presence of Mr. Praunce and the said Hall, did say these words following: That he hoped he should be settled in a Parish-Church before a Twelve-month came about; for he did not fear but that the Catholick Religion would reign in England: and to advance it, he would not mind any more matter to Sir Forty Parliament-men, then to eat his Dinner: he being then sitting at Dinner with his Knife in his hand. Concerning this zealous Gentleman's practice we shall have occasion to speak more hereafter.

That one Mr. Ridley a Chirurgeon, living at the House that was late the Lord of Bacon's in Wild-lane, walking in Wild-Garden, declared, That he expected to be a Chirurgeon

son to the Catholick Army in *England*; and that he hoped the Lord *Bellasis*, whom *Gowen* was one chief person to command it, would much please his friend in that concern. And since the discovery of the Plot, upon Mr. *Praunce*'s information, there was a *Po-gram* Priest, one *Fineham* by name, being a Priest to the Lady *Sweil*, taken in the said *Ridleys* House, where he was sheltered; but since, by the mediation of good friends, he is, as 'tis said, sent beyond the Seas.

That in the month of *August*, 1678. Mr. *Praunce* having occasion to write to a friend in the Countrey, but not knowing certainly how to send, went to one Mr. *Passon*, from whom he had some reasons to believe could inform him therein; he lodged then at the *Bamber's* a *Taylor* in *Duke-street*, and had great resort of Jesuits and Priests to his Chamber; after he had satisfied him in the particular matter he came to him about, they immediately fell into discourse of publick Affairs, and the interest of Catholick Religion; & he bid Mr. *Praunce* not to fear any thing, for all would suddenly be well; in the first place, he said, *It was true the King was a great Heretick, but the Lord Bellasis, the Lord Arundel, the Lord Powis, and Lord Peters,* (these four Noblemen he well remembers he named) *would have a gallant Army for the deposing, or disposing of the King, & utter subversion of all the Protestants; & then the Catholick Religion should be established & flourish in this Nation.* And he then farther said, *that the Lords had already sent out Commissions to divers Gentlemen in the Countrey for raising their Troops;* and he named several of them; amongst whom he well remembers one was Mr. *Talbot* of *Langford*; another, Sir *Henry Bedingfield* of *Oxborough-hall* in *Norfolk*; and a third Mr. *Ston*, who lives within four or five miles of *Kingston* upon *Thames*; others he mentioned, whose names he does not so well retain.

7. That about eight or ten days before *Michaelmas*, 1678. he had a more clear discovery of the design in hand, That they intended to leavy War, to subvert the Government, &c. for being at the Chamber of Father *Ireland* the Jesuite, since executed for treason, he lodging then in *Russel-street*, where were likewise present *John Fenwick* and *John Grove*; the said *Ireland* did declare, *that there would VERT SHORTLY be Fifty thousand men in Arms.* At which Mr. *Praunce*, as surprized, demanded of him where they would have them, and what they were to do? to which he answered, *We must have them speedily to settle our Religion here, or else all will be ruined.* Then Mr. *Praunce* enquired who should command them? to which *Fenwick* undertook to make answer, *he said, That they should be commanded by the Lord Arundel, Lord Bellasis, Lord Powis, &c. others.* Whereupon, Mr. *Praunce* apprehending the fatal mischiefs and distractions of a Civil War, said to them, *What then shall we poor Tradesmen do?* the same *Fenwick* replied, *You for your part of all men need not fear a Trade, for you (being a Goldsmith) will have enough in your way by Church-work.* And several such discourses passed between them, whereby he plainly understood, that there was a grand Plot, and near to be put in execution, and that they were very confident of the success.

8. That soon after this, the said *Grove* came to Mr. *Praunce's* shop to buy two Silver Spoons for a Christning where he was to be Godfather; & taking occasion to speak their last recited discourse at Father *Ireland's*, Mr. *Praunce* askt him what Office he the said *Grove* was to have in the Catholick Army: but he declined to answer directly, & at

last said, *He did not know AS YET*. Then being asked again, who were to govern the intended Army, he named the Lord *Bellasis*, the Lord *Arundel*, the Lord *Powis*, and Lord *Peters*; and said, that they had already Commissions for that purpose.

9. The Priests themselves were not only the grand Contrivers of this desperate Design with Counsel and Encouragement, but likewise intended to be actually concern'd in Butcheries, as well as the Laity: for very near the same time, Mr. *le Fevre* a Priest, who Mr. *Praunce* was well acquainted with, as having sold him several Chalice, Crewel Basons, Oil-boxes for Extreame Uction, and such-like Utensils, came to his Shop to buy a second hand Silver-hilt for a Sword; whereupon, he askt him what he ment do therewith, for he had a good Sword already? the said *le Fevre* answered, there were times coming on, wherein Catholicks would have good occasion for Weapons, and therefore he would be sure to be provided, by getting another special Sword, and would have such an Hilt to it.

10. Happening one day to see Mr. *Moore*, that belongs to the Duke of *Norfolk*, riding in the streets upon a very brave Horse meeting him soon after in the Court at *Somerset House*, Mr. *Praunce* was saying what a gallant Beast he saw him mounted upon late whereupon, the said Mr. *Moore* wished that he had ten Thousand of them; but said, that he hoped in a very short time we should have Ten thousand as good Horses, and mounted with brave men, well Arm'd and Accoutred, for the advancing of the Catholic cause: which he spoke openly, and in a braving manner, as if he were not afraid to own the thing, nor cared who heard him.

11. In like manner, and much about the same time, he heard Mr. *Messinger*, Gentleman of the Horse to the Lord *Arundel*, boast, That he doubted not but to see the Catholic Religion flourish ere long throughout *England*, and Hereticks to be rooted out: for he hoped to see a gallant Army, one of these days, to effect so glorious a work. The same man was afterwards engaged in the horrid Designs of Murthering the Kings Sacred Majesty, and also of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, of which a particular Account is herein afterwards given.

After God by a miracle of mercy to these Nations, had been pleased to give some Discovery of the Plot, their insolence was so little daunted, and their malice increased, contriving new ways to destroy all that opposed them, and to involve us in Blood and Confusion. - For,

12. When the Order came forth for tendering the Oaths of Allegiance and supremacy to all *Roman Catholicks*, one Mr. *Laurence*, an Apothecary in *Drury lane*, came to Mr. *Praunces* House, to borrow a Book which had in it the forms of the said Oaths, seeming very much dissatisfied and offended about it; and after several Complaints, and murmurings against Authority, did speak these words: - *I wish with all my heart, half the Papists present were poisoned; for they will ruine us all*, meaning all Papists. Now how exceedingly dangerous may a person, continuing under such desperate Principles, and of that Trade, be to the Nation, in destroying privately, such as shall oppose their Hellish Designs? for 'tis reasonably to be feared, that he that had mad zeal and malice enough to kill half the members of that most Honourable Assembly poisoned, will scarce lack to a piece of his skill upon any particular Heretick or Hereticks, when the Interest of our Bloody Church shall command, or prospect of considerable gain invite thereunto.

13. That about a fortnight before St. *Thomas's* day last, Mr. *Praunce* having an intimate acquaintance with the Lord *Arundel* of *Warders* Butler, he told Mr. *Praunce*. (but

th a great obligation of Secrecie,) That the before-mentioned Mr. Messinger (his
wards Gentleman of the Horse) was to kill the King, and to have a vast Reward, if he
aped with his Life, as 'twas well hoped, the business was so neatly contrived, that
might : But however, if he should miscarry or suffer in or for the Attempt, then he
ving appointed before-hand what Friends should have the said Reward, it should be
distributed faithfully to them by the said Lord Arundel, Powis, and the rest of the
ords that were in the Plot. Whereupon, within a day or two after, Praunce meet-
with the said Messinger in *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, after some previous and prepa-
tory discourse, asked him, *Why he would kill the King ?* At which question he ap-
ared strangely surprized and confounded, as wondering how he should come to know
such his traitorous Intention : But Mr. Praunce seeming not willing to give him any
reason of fear, he, recollecting himself, said, *Who told you of it ?* To which the other
wered, That their Butler intimated so much to him, as a Friend ; whereupon he
ly said, No, no, we are off of that thing now : giving him to understand as if they
d taken some new Measures. Then Mr. Praunce took leave of him, who seemed
ich troubled at the Discovery : and after he was gone a few paces from him, call'd
n back again, and asked him to drink with him ; but he told him, that his business
quired haste, and so avoided going with him. Then he adjur'd him not to speak of
at business to any body living. But afterwards the poor Butler came to Praunce's
op, and told him- That he had received great Anger, and was like to be undone, be-
use he had told him what Mr. Messinger was to have done.

14. In the same street where Mr. Praunce lives, viz. *Princes-street* in *Covent Garden*,
ere dwells one GROVE a Papist, (Nephew to John Grove, lately executed for design-
ing to murder the King) who is still, at the writing hereof, suffered to teach School
ere. This person, after the Condemnation of his Uncle, said very confidently, that
ere was no such Plot at all as was pretended, for it was one'y a Plot of the Prote-
stants : And to vilifie the Kings Evidence, though most plain and pregnant, (according
the usual method of all Papists, who make it their grand business to throw upon
em all imaginable Scandals) said, That they were all Rogues that swore against his
ncle. Whereupon Mr. Praunce (of whom he then had no mistrust, but lookt upon
im as firm to their party) said, But then what think you of the Fifty thousand men
at were suddenly to be raised ? which to my knowledge he knew of : for I well re-
ember he told me of it. Which plain Argument of his Uncles Treason from Mr.
raunce, the said Grove not being able to deny, said, *That possibly his Uncle might speak
at in jest.* Such sorry Evasions will they make use of to out-face Truth, bolster up
their villanous practices, and make ignorant and credulous people believe, That all their
traitors are Saints, or at least Martyrs.

Further Particulars which have fallen within the said Miles Praunce's Cognizance
ouching the Plot in general, (though several material ones there are) we shall not here
ention, as being not yet fit to be publickly divulged ; but proceed to the Murder of
Sir Edmund-bury Godfrey, in which Mr. Praunce was unhappily concerned.

The Full Discovery of the Manner and Circumstances of Sir Edmund-bury
Godfrey's Murder.

1. **T**He Design of Murthering this Innocent and Never-to-be-forgotten Gentleman was laid, and some Attempts made to execute it before it was at all communicated unto Mr. Praunce, for he hath since heard by *Girald* and *Kelly* (Irish Popish Priests concerned in th: Murther) and others, that once, some small time before they acquainted him with it; a Gentleman passing by *Somerset-House*, that was very like *Sir Edmund-bury* in Stature, Physiognomy and Habit; some of them mistook and complemented him as *Sir Edmund-bury*, but the Stranger denying the Name, or that he was any such person, they were so confident, as to think he did it out of Caution to avoid the Plot. And therefore peremptorily told him he was *Sir Edmund-bury Godfrey*, which he as positively denying, they made some attempts to push him into the House, but at last perceiving their mistake, released him, pretending it was only to have drank a Bottle of Wine with him. Likewise they said that once or oftner, they dogged him into the Fields, and out parts of the Town, but being in the day time, could meet with no opportunity to dispatch him.

2. On Sunday, wanting but a day of a fortnight before the Murther committed, coming from the Queens Chappel, the said *Girald* and *Kelly* together with *Robert Gre* Cushion man to the Chappel, *Laurence Hill*, Doctor *Goddin's* Man (which Doctor Treasurer of the Chappel) and Mr. Praunce went (as commonly they did every Sunday to the Plough-Alchouse by the *Watergate* (as they call it, that is the furthermost Gate of passage going down out of the Strand to the *Water-side*) of *Somerset-House*; where after some common friendly discourse and talk of the Plot which was then begun to be discovered: *Girald* the Priest, in a familiar plausible way askt Praunce if he did not know *Sir Edmund-bury Godfrey*, who told him he had heard of him, and seen him; but had no particular Acquaintance with him. Then he askt if he did not know what a bitter persecutor he was to Catholicks, and a particular enemy to the Queens Servants (which it is supposed he urged because Praunce was one of them:). And now at last (said he) he has examined people against us; and got Depositions to fix odious Crimes and Scandals upon us and our Religion. To which Praunce answered that he had lately taken some Examinations concerning the Plot, but did not know the particulars, though he understood there was a great deal of Noise abroad about it, and heard that Mr. Ireland and others last night were taken upon it. The other told him that the said *Sir Edmund-bury* was so desperate an Enemy, and had done such things that he were not taken off, the Catholicks would be generally ruined, and therefore it was absolutely necessary for the Glory of God, and the good of the Church that it be done, and if we can find an opportunity to do it, we shall have a very good Reward from a worse Man than the Lord *Belshis*, and therefore (saith the said *Girald* to Praunce) looking upon you as a good Catholick and that will not deny so good a Service to the Church; we would have you be aiding and assisting to us in it. This was the very effect, and as near as he can remember the Words of his first Discourse. To which, being surpris'd with horror at so unexpected and cruel a Motion, Praunce answered, no, he could not be concerned, nor would be guilty of any mans Blood for a wild. For Murther was a grievous and most mortal sin. The Priest replied, Alas, this is no sin, but a work of Charity. There is no murther in this case, it is for the Glory of

words to that purpose. which wicked persuasions, Kelly the other Priest likewise joyned with him, affirming the same & highly encouraging *Praunce* & the rest present (whom it seems they had engaged before) thereunto, as a meritorious work. Yet still *Praunce* told them he could not Treacherously kill any man, for he was not able to force his minde to such an action; *Girald* said, he desired him to be no further concerned that he would be himself, and that he would make nothing of killing twenty Hereticks in such a Case, and there was no Danger in it, for it might easily be effected and no body the wiser. Several such words and discourses passed. At last they told him he should not be troubled to do the business, but should only stand at a distance, and that they were sure he could not deny to do, for, by their very declaring the Business, he was already as far concerned as that came to, unless he would betray them, which if he did, he was certainly Damned, nor should escape long here without Revenge.

These, to the best of his memory were the substance of all their Arguments to him. For did they Assign any particular reason of their malice, only that Sir. *Edmondbury* was a busy man, and was going about to ruine all the Catholics in England, and that it was necessary to destroy him, else they should be all undone. In fine, so unfortunate they were, that by these cursed persuasions proceeding from Priests whom had been taught to Reverence, and receive their words as Oracles; *Praunce* was prevailed with, (with hearty Sorrow, Shame and Contrition, he desires to acknowledge it) to keep their bloody Councils, not daring both on a Religious and Temporal account to reveal the same, fearing as well Damnation in the next World, if he should discover it, as Ruine in this, being one of her Majesties Servants, and so great a part or rather his whole Livelyhood depending on her and other Catholics. With whom these revengful Priests by their Interest and some false informations might easily do him, besides the danger he lay under of a private Stab or the like mischief from them.

Then they acquainted him that some others were engaged in the Business, besides those then present, naming *Henry Berry* Porter to the Queens Majesty at the upper Court Gate, one *Lewson* a Priest, and *Philip Vernatti*, who did belong to the Lord *Assis*, hertofore Pay-master at *Tangier*, and much indebted to the said Lord. Who together with *Gerrard* & *Kelly* (as 'tis believed) were the first that were engaged in the business, & that the said *Vernatti* might be induced thereto by some promise, that his debt should be remitted, and further rewards promised.

They likewise said there should be one more in it, whose Name (as they then told him) he doth not remember. And as he since understands, there were several others concerned. So desperately were the Original Conspirers set upon this good Gentlemans further; That to effect it throughly they laid several distinct Plots, and employed diverse Separate Agents unknown to each other. But those above mentioned were all that he then knew of for his part, or that they discovered to him.

In the week following, some of them met with him several times at the same house, appointed to meet the next Sunday, which accordingly they did: Walking immediately from Prayers at the Chappel down to the Water-side, where they presently fell to Consultation about the manner of effecting this Horrid murder. But did not there come to any Resolution, but went from thence to the said *Plough* to drink, where they con-

concluded to dogg or watch *Sr. Edmundbury* the next week, and that whoever of them could first see him in a Convenient place, should give the rest notice.

4. Pursuant to this Resolve, as he since understood, *Green* and some of the rest went to *Sr. Edmundbury's* House, and endeavoured to watch him, but as appears, could find no light on a fit Opportunity. They met sometimes in the former part of that Week, but *Praunce* never concerned himself to go to his House, or elsewhere, to look for, or at him; But on Saturday the 12th. of *October* in the morning *Girald*, *Green* and *Hill*, went forth to observe his motions, and *Kelly* the other Priest who lodged in *Summerset-House* and knew of their going, came about nine a Clock in the Forenoon to *Praunce's* House to acquaint him therewith, and charge him to be at home in a readines, The first that went near *Sr. Edmundbury* *Godfrey's*, and whilst two staid some little way off, *Hill* went up to his House, and inquired for *Sr. Edmundbury*, and understanding he was with *Spake* with him, and pretended some fained Business as 'tis believed, but not certainly known what it was, and so he returned to his Companions (This Account He relates he had it from themselves, viz. *Girald* and *Green*, afterwards being not present then himself, but at home as aforesaid.)

5. About ten or eleven a Clock *Sr. Edmundbury* came forth all alone (as his manner was, for, being a plain Stout Gentleman, he never or very seldom went abroad attended with any servant, which they very well knew.) They waiting for him privately, dogg him to several places, up and down all the rest of the day, as his business led him, till about six or seven a Clock at Night he came to *St. Clements*, and went into a great house there, where it is thought he supped. Then *Green* left the other two, and came to *Praunce's* shop, but he not being at home, but at a publique House hard by, he sent for him, and informed him that they had now lost *Sr. Edmundbury* in *St. Clements* (but particular House he did not name or declare to him, so as he might know whose it was, but only told him that he must make all the haste he could, down to *Summerset-House* by the Water-Gate, where he should find *Kelly* the Priest and *Berry* the Porter, according to what *Praunce* left his Company, went thither, and found them walking in the Yard, when they three sometimes walking, and sometimes sitting on the Bench, continued till about nine of the Clock; And then *Sr. Edmundbury* as it appears came fourth of the said place by *St. Clements*, and presently *Hill* came running away before, up Street to give notice that he was coming. And ordered that for to wheedle him in, two should pretend to be Quarrelling, and having thus said, the said *Hill* goes up again to the Water-Gate, and stood there to expect his coming by, and intice him in. In the mean time *Kelly* the Priest and *Berry* began a seeming Quarrel, but made no great Noise; and *Sr. Edmundbury* coming along the Strand, just as he was passing by the Water-Gate, *Kelly* (who well knew *Sr. Edmundbury*, and *Sr. Edmundbury* him, as having traded with him for C^cs) steps up to him as in a great deal of haste, and says, for God sake, *Sr. Edmundbury* *Godfrey* be pleased to come in, for here are two men a Quarrelling, and I am afraid there will be Blood shed between them. Pough, Pough, said *Sr. Edmundbury*, refusing to trouble himself, but *Hill* still crying out he feared there might be a great deal of Harm done, and how glad he was to light on his Worship, who being a Magistrate, his presence would presently quiet them and therefore intreated him again to step in; The Gallant Gentlemans good Nature, was such, not suspecting any Hurt, but signing to do an Act of Charity, and to endeavour that the Peace might be kept concerning to his Office, that he was prevailed with by the Treacherous persuasions of the Assillmate, to turn into the Trap they had laid for him.

of the Hill entered the Gate first Sr. Edmundbury follows him and immediately behind him
old and Green; they coming down as soon as they had past Prance (who stood close
to the wall unseen) went forwards towards the water-gate, to observe any that
ould come that way, and Bury then went to secure the Stairs and passage by the
eck, Chappel. But first he and Kelly were the pretended Quarrellers, and stood just at the
or a of the Raile by the Queens Stables, and as Sr. Edmundbury went down, Green who
l, w lkt just behind him, having in readines a large twisted Handkerchief, on a sudden
e-Hew the same about his Neck, and immediately they all sower, viz. Girald, Kelly,
Houreen and the said Hill fell upon him, secured his Sword, pull'd him down, throttled
st-th n, so that he he could neither Cry out, nor Speak, drew him behind the Rail and
ill w ere him many violent punches on the Brest with their Knees, and having as they sup-
with sed dispatcht him, and that he had lain still for a while, fearing he was not yet quite
rtal ad, Girald the Priest would have run his Sword through him, but the rest would
late t yield to that, so they said then it should be discovered by the Blood, so that at their
n h rswasion he put up his Sword again, and did not do it; however to make sure
orke, Green got upon him and punching him with all his Force on the Brest with
s Knee, wrung his Neck round; The first Attaque, viz. Green's flinging the twist-
tend Handkerchief about his Neck, and their falling upon him, Prance saw, but then
log immediately went to the water-Gate, and as for the rest of the Transactions, he had
till from all their mouths afterwards, and particularly as to the wringing of his Neck,
ho ree told of it himself, for he boasted of it; and the bloody minded Priest Gi-
ame old, seeing him Dead, said these Words: *Well if we could not have inticed him in here,*
ent resolved I would have followed him down Hartf-horn Lane that leads to his own House,
w and there would have run him through with my own Hand.

But it was otherwise ordered by the Hand of God, who though he sometimes suf-
fers wicked men to perpetrate their barbarous designs, yet he often over-rules them
so far as that they themselves against their intentions, contribute to the discovery, or
bring by infinite wisdom and power, Good out of Evil, and serves the interests of his
Church and people even by the Cruelties of their implacable enemies. For had they
killed him in another place, or disposed of his Body in another manner, 'tis possible it
had never been found out, and in that Case, or if they had not been suffered to be so sa-
tisfacted by the Devil as to murder him; 'tis probable their Hellish Plot had ne-
ver been sufficiently taken notice of, till felt in the direfull Effects, so that Sr. Edmond-
bury must justly be stiled, *the King and Kingdoms Martyr*, since his Death (though it
it self most horrid and deplorable) was yet through the infinite mercy of God, a mean
to preserve the Lives of many thousands.

7. Having staid at the Gate about a quarter of an hour, in all which time no bod
offered to come in that way, Prance went down to them, and likewise Berry came from
his post at the Stairs, and then they all set upon removing the Body, which they carried
in at a Door right against the place where he was Murdered, and so up a pair
of Stairs that goes into a long Entry leading into the upper Court by the Coach House
and then into Doctor Goddin's Lodgings, who was Treasurer of the Chappel to the
Queen, where the said Hill lived, & did all the Doctors Business, being the first Doc-
tor on the left Hand in the said Entry, Hill going before and opening the Door. Then they
carried him up Five or six Steps, into a little Room on the Right Hand, where they
set the Body with his Back leaning against a Bed, and so leaving Hill there as he lay

home the rest departed, and dispersed themselves, every Man to his own Dwelling getting home about ten of the Clock, or between ten and eleven.

8. The Body lay in that Room, Saturday Night, Sunday all Day and Night, and till Munday at Night, and then *Prance* coming from Home about ten of the Clock down to *Hill's*, to know if they had disposed thereof, or how they would do it, because he had heard nothing from them; *Hill* told him, that he and the rest had the Evening a little before, carried him out to a Room cross the upper Court of *Somerset-House*, for fear Notice should be taken of their keeping the other Room so long private, or that some body should have occasion to go into it, and discover him; then *Mr. Prance* went to the *Plough Ale-House*, where he found *Green*, *Girald* and *Kelly*, and presently *Hill* came thither also, and *Hill* with a dark Lanthorn went with the other three, &c. To shew *Mr. Prance* where the Body lay, which was in the said Room in the upper Court upon the Ground, covered with a Cloth over the Head, but his word was not there, but still kept hidden in *Hill's House*; So having seen the Body every Man went home.

9. There the Corps continued Munday-Night, and all Tuesday till about nine of the Clock at Night, and then all the said five persons, viz *Girald*, *Kelly*, *Green*, *Hill* and *Berry* tooke him out of the said Room, and brought him back cross the Court to the aforesaid long Entry by *Doctor Goddin's Door*, but *Hill* going in before to his own Lodging, found (as they declared after.) some body there, so that they could not with safety lay him in the same Room where he was first before, and therefore they carried him into another Room on the left Hand going from the upper Court just opposite to *Doctor Goddin's Door*, which as is supposed was *Sr. John Aveling's Lodgings* who is Master of the Horse to the Queen.

10. There the Body lay Tuesday-Night, and till Wednesday about nine a Clock at Night, and then all the said five persons undertook to convey it back again to the Room in *Doctor Goddin's Lodgings* where *Hill* Lived, and where it was laid at first, they imagining as *Mr. Prance* supposes that they might have more freedom, and better opportunity to carry it from thence unperceived, than from the other place; But during the time they were so removing him, and just as they had the Body in the Entry, *Mr. Prance* accidentally came that way, and they not knowing who it might be, left the Body there, and began to fly, *Berry* running away quite to his Lodge, but *Mr. Prance* calling to them, they knowing his Voice, came back and then they all but *Berry* who was so gone set to their Hands & got it up again into the said little Room in *Doctor Goddin's Lodgings*, where it was at first.

11. There they entred into a serious Consultation, and the Two Priests *Girald* & *Kelly* (whether by Order of Superiors or not, cannot here be set forth because they named no body that had so ordered, but delivered it as their own Sense) advised that the safest and best way was to carry him out into the Fields and lay him in some secure place, in such a manner as that whenever he should be found it might be supposed that he Murdred himself, which would much serve the interest of the Church when it should be publickly known, that he who was so busy in charging Catholicks with a Plot, was so troubled afterwards for so abusing them in the same, that he made away himself; & therefore it was agreed that none of his Mony or other things should be meddled with, the better to colour that Report; and indeed if they did take away

Note-Book or other Writing from him, it was in *Praunce's* absence, for he never
w them search his Pockets, nor doth know what became of his Band, but suppose
same might be lost in some of their removes, and being found by some Papist
Clo when the Body was after discovered, and enquiry made after the Band, the same might
t, b kept concealed, because it should not be any Evidence that he was mu there
d there.

12. This being well approved of, it was further resolved to carry the body away tha
t about twelve of the Clock, to which purpose *Hill* and another undertook to g
s the Sedan, and appointed all to meet there at eleven a Clock, in the mean time the
y, an ent home. Mr. *Praunce* calling as he passed, upon *Berry* to let him know that he mu
oth ready on such a sign to open the Gate.

13. Near eleven a Clock that Night Mr. *Praunce* returned, and found all the four
ut h. *Hill*, *Green*, *Girald* and *Kelly* there, and a Sedan provided, standing ready at Do
Bod for *Goddin's* Door. Now by that time they had contrived which way to carry him, &
t him into the Sedan, it was near Twelve a Clock, then *Girald* & *Praunce* going to car
him found there wanted leathers & were not able to carry him well with their Arms.
, *Hill* provided Cords, which they tyed in the nature of Leathers, and then *Girald* and
our *Praunce* took him up and carried him over the Court-Yard up to the Lodge and there
e for an Humr (which was the Token agreed on) and thereupon *Bury* came forth and
the ened the Gate and let them out, having on purpose to avoid any Notice being ta
pe n, invited the Souldiers into his House with Drink and Tobacco, for they saw no
entinel at all, and at the Tryal, the Souldiers which that Night stood Centinel ac
4 lowledged that they saw a Sedan come in, but none go our, and indeed it was impos
le they should, they not being there, but in *Bury's* House, where were Lights seen
d company heard talking.

Being thus got out of *Somerset House*, *Hill* run before to get ready an Horse. But
th ose the Horse was, or where provided, Mr. *Praunce* doth not know. Then *Girald*
frst *Praunce* carried him into *Covent-Garden* to the end of *James-street*, and there set
bec *Praunce* down; and then *Kelly* and *Green*, who walkt by, took him up and carried him a-
Bu g *Kings-street* to *Newstreet-end*, and so up *Rose-street* to *Longacre-end*. Then the
En g two took him up again, and carried him by the *Gray bound Tavern* to the *Grecian*
be arch, there *Hill* met them with an Horse, and taking out the Body, set it on the
bu rse before *Hill*; and elapt the Sedan into an House that was Building, but un-
all nishd, leaving it there till they came back. The Body being so set on Horse-
cle k, *Girald* the Priest said, *I wish we had an hundred such Rogues as secure as we have*

& Then those four, viz. *Hill*, *Girald*, *Kelly* and *Green*, went away with him,
hey Leading the Horse, and the other walking by on each side, whilst *Hill* held him
fed before him, But Mr. *Praunce* returned home, because being an House-keeper his Fa-
me y might take no notice of his being out all Night, nor any body observe his co-
up home in the morning, for it was between One and Two before he got back.
ch 14. Next day they met together, and then *Girald* told him that they had laid the
ck dy in a Ditch belonging to a Field about *Primrose-Hill*; and to make people think
de never he shall be found, That he killed himself, I, said he, run his own Sword
ld ough him, and left it in his Body, and laid his Scabbard and Gloves at a small
ay nce on the Bank.

15. On the Thursday in the Afternoon the Body was found: That night *Praunce* was at the *Hofeshoe-Tavern* in *Drury-Lane*, with *Philip Vernatti*, that they have been actually concerned in the Murther, but failed to be there; and also another friend that accidentally was with them, knowing nothing in the least of this bloody business. There some people came in and said, That *Sir Edmund-bury Godfrey* was found murdered. Whereupon the said *Vernatti* calling *Mr. Praunce* aside to the side said, Lord! is this mans body found already that was carried away but yesternight. Thanks be to God that he was conveyed away without any notice, for now I hope will never be discovered. He said further, That he should have been concerned in it, was sent to, but was not at home, but was sorry he was not there, to have been present to them. Then he askt the manner how the Murther was contrived; of which *Mr. Praunce* gave him some short account, but not all, because his Friend being in the Room, they were afraid of talking long so privately, lest he should suspect something to their prejudice.

16. In little time after, the said *Vernatti* met with *Girald*, who gave him an account in writing of the whole proceedings and manner of the Murther, That he (he said) might communicate and shew the same to the Lord *Bellasis*, and other original Designers or promoters of the business, for their satisfaction; which *Mr. Praunce* came to the knowledge of in manner following, viz. About a fortnight afterwards met with the said *Vernatti* again, who invited him to *Bow* to take a Dinner, and so to his Friend of his: To which he consented, and the day was appointed. But in the morning they were first to meet in *London* at the *George*, an Alehouse right over against *Sticks Market*; where going accordingly, he found *Mr. Vernatti* and the before-mentioned *Lewson*, a Priest that was privy to the Murther, and should likewise have been at it, but happened to be absent; these were got thither before, but *Mr. Praunce* had but a little time been come to them, before the said *Vernatti* pluckt out of his pocket a paper in which was written down an account of the whole Murther, read the same to *Lewson*. Upon which *Mr. Praunce* askt him who gave him all that exact Account? He answered, *Girald* gave it him to shew it to the Lord *Bellasis*, and the rest concerned.

17. Then away they went together all three to *Bow* to a Tavern; being the *Queen's Head*, one *Mr. Castles* House, where they went up one pair of Stairs, and there *Mr. Vernatti* wrote a Note to one *Mr. Dethwick* who lived about a mile and an half off (as *Mr. Praunce* thinks, about *Poplar*) to come to him, and causes a messenger to be provided to carry it, who was a Cobler, whom he strictly charged not to deliver the same to any but *Dethwicks* own hand, and if he were not at home, to bring it back again; whilst he was gone, looking out at the Window, and hearing Fish cries *Mr. Praunce* bought some, and ordered the people of the House to dress them. But after some time, both *Vernatti* and *Lewson* went down to desire the Woman not to furnish them with Suet but with Butter, saying they would allow her so much the more for dressing, pretending fat would rise in their Stomacks; but the true reason which they declared above, was because it was Friday (being as he remembers the Friday next after the Proclamation came forth, commanding Papists to depart the City). These nice and scrupulous were they in that paltry Observation who could absolve themselves, and without the least remorse, carry on a most Hellish Plot, and premeditate

ed Murther. Yet was not this Caution so neatly delivered but that the people
 an to have a suspicion that they were *Papists*; for having a Barrel of *Colechester*
 ers brought, the Cöbler returned with word, That Mr. *Debmick*, would prefer
 e there; who came accordingly, and was entertained by *Vernatti* with abundance
 Complaisance and Caresses; so fell to their Oysters, and preparing for Dinner: Mr. *V*
natti was so eager to communicate the business, that he had got the before-mention
 Narrative of Sir *Edmund-bury's* Death in his hand, and was reading the same to *D*
wick, who said the same was very well; but a boy of the House observing a pa
 in his hand, and having some suspicion, because he heard the name of Sir *Edmund*
bury Godfrey mentioned (as he hath since made Oath) did listen at the door, till *M*
Praunce percieving something stir behind the door, and being (as the Guilty alwa
 are) full of suspicions and jealousies, ran to the door, and opening it, found hi
 there, and threatened to kick him down stairs; and from that time they would n
 suffer the door any more to be shut, because no-body should listen. However the
 they continued all that day, and at night went every one to his home.

18. Soon after this, *Vernatti* was very importunate with Mr. *Praunce* to go out
 Town with him; whether it were to have done him a mischief, as fearing
 our confidence in him, and suspecting he should discover them; he knows not, b
 absolutely refused to go with him. This *Vernatti* is a person that has been a gre
 Traveller, and lived a long time at *Rome*, maintaining a Correspondence both
France and *Italy* with Jesuits and other the most dangerous Popish Firebrands; he fr
 quently made it his business to carry away young Gentlemen to *Rhemes*, *Doway*, an
 other foreign Seminaries; and sometimes young Ladies to Nunneries. In a word,
 was amighty stickler in the Catholick cause; and a person so dangerous, that 'tis p
 he has escaped the hand of Justice.

19. Thus far this Execrable Murther was carried on in secret, and the parties con
 cerned began to be out of all pain concerning it, not dreading any discovery; but
 last the righteous God by an unexpected means was pleased to lay open the same, an
 in infinite mercy to bring Mr. *Praunce* (whom the vile Priests perswasions as afore
 had drawn in to be an Accomplice, and hardened so far as not to have any due sen
 of the Guilt he had contracted) to be deeply affected with the horror of that crime
 heartily penitent for the same, and instrumental towards a full discovery. The bring
 ing this to pass was most assuredly the overruling hand of a special Providence,
 appears by the strangeness of the circumstances which contributed to his being fir
 questioned for the same.

For the better understanding whereof, we must acquaint the world with an Acciden
 that happened before the Murther committed, which yet casually occasioned
 discovery so long after.

Upon the first notice of the Plot and Commitment of *Fenwick*, *Ireland*, and th
 rest of the Traitors that were first apprehended, Mr. *Praunce* being then blindly ze
 lous for Popery, happening to be in a Coffee-house where some people were tal
 ing of the said Prisoners, for the credit of the Catholick cause, did there speak wor
 in their favour, which some of the Company thought ill, and gave (as he was tol
 some information against him; whereof having notice, to avoid trouble and charge

he did absent himself from his house the three nights next, and immediately *Michaelmas* day, viz. on the Munday and Tuesday nights he lay at a Friends House right over against his Dwelling; and on Wednesday-night at an House by the *Mews*. But then understanding that the business was over, and no prosecution like made on it, he afterwards lay at home as before, and this was very near a Fortnight before Sir Edmund-bury was murdered. Yet by occasion of this, twelve weeks Mr. *Prance* was called in question; for there hapning some misunderstanding between a Neighbour and him, who having got some intelligence that he once lay three Nights out of his House, he will not say out of ill will, because he acknowledges the hand of God in it, but upon a mistake it was, that he did imagine that these might be the Nights whereon Sir Edmund-bury Godfrey was murdered, and those that succeeded it and upon this naked surmise, bottom'd upon nothing that he or any that he could produce (though Mr. *Prance's* Servants were scrutinized) knew of the matter, a Warrant was obtained from the most Honourable Council-Board to apprehend and examine Mr. *Prance* touching that matter. Being taken upon that Warrant on the 21. of December last, before St. Thomas his day, he was first carried into the Lobby by the House of Commons where Mr. *Bedlow*, whom he did not know, having but once been seen by him before viz. between the Murther and carrying out of the Body of Sir Edmund-bury Godfrey and at a time when Mr. *Prance* did not observe him, yet knew his face again, charged him positively with being concerned in that murther; and thereupon at Examination he was committed to *Newgate* on Saturday the one and twentieth of December.

Upon the Munday following he made a discovery upon Oath, and then did implicate the said *Fitz-Gerald*, *Dominick Kelly*, *Robert Green*, *Henry Berry*, and *Laurence Hill*; these the two subtil Priests made shift to escape; *Gerald* having not since been heard of, but *Kelly* was got into the Prison of the *Marshalsea* by the name of *Daniel Edmund* being taken up somewhere in the County of *Surrey* where he retired to hide himself and sent thither for being a Recusant; and hearing of *Prance's* being apprehended made all the Interest he could to be gone, and so procured unknown Bail hired for 10-shillings a piece, and got away in December, before he was known to be *Kelly*, though since there hath been a full discovery thereof made publick, as for *Hill* and *Berry* they were forthwith taken at their own houses, but *Green* was before clapt up as a prisoner in the Gatehouse for refusing to take the Oath, (for his Conscience was won by a tender in that, but able to digest a murther.) And when his Keeper came to acquaint him that there was another Business come against him, and that he was charged with the Murther of Sir Edmund-bury Godfrey, he hastily askt, Who accused him and the Keeper telling him, It was one *Prance*; he presently clapt his hand on his breast, and said the's words, *Then am I a dead man.*

20. On the 24th. of December, *Prance* was carried before the King and Council where he gave a particular account of the Circumstances of the Murther, as herein before is set forth; and for more full satisfaction touching the several places he had had occasion to mention, his Majesty thought fit to appoint his Grace the Duke of *Monmouth*, the right Honourable the Earl of *Offory*, the Earl of *Clarendon*, and Sir *Robert Ashwell* Clerk of the Council, to go with him and take his Examination on the place, to see if he could shew all the particular places he had mentioned to the Board; being come

(15)

there he shew'd his Grace and those Noble Lords, first the fatal spot, or place where Sir Edmundbury Godfrey was murdered, the place where Berry was assigned to, and where himself stood; then the door he was carried in at by the end of the stairs, the stairs, the long dark Entry, the door leading to Doctor Goddins Lodgings, the Chamber there where the Body was first laid; going to them all as readily as a man could do to any room in his own House, which all appeared to be exactly situate as he had described them that morning before to the Board. But as to that Room where the body lie on the Monday-night, being cross the upper Court, (though he led them directly towards the place cross the Court, & told his Grace so far he was sure was right, yet there being several Rooms, and he having never been there but once, that in the night, and only with a dark Lanthorn,) he was not able certainly to go into the very Room. But as to all the other places he was positive, and so his Grace their Honours return'd very well satisfied in the reality of his Information.

Here is to be noted, That whilst they were viewing Doctor Goddins Lodgings, in Broadstreet the Doctor's House-keeper, coming to understand what it was for, and Hill their Servant was charged with the Murther of Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, (the a right Papist, to keep up the reputation of the party) voluntarily offered her Oath, and did swear before the Duke of Monmouth, That the said Hill had taken an House in Hope-street, and went thither to live and lodge at Michaelmas; whereas in truth, and at the Trial of the said Hill, &c it was plainly made appear before her face, That the Hill did not go to reside at such his new house so soon, but continued his Lodging till about three Weeks after Michaelmas, in which time all these Transactions concerning the murther, happened. She then further swore, that there was but one Key belonging to the outward doore of their Lodgings, and so it was impossible that Hill should go out and in, and all these things be done, and they within not see him, or take notice of them; and yet before they went away from thence, Mr. Prance made it appear, he was forc'd to confess, That there were four or five Keys amongst them thereupon one of which Hill did always use to carry about him, that he might at any time go in, & go out at his pleasure without troubling or disturbing the rest of the Family. Mr. Prance himself hath been several times let in by him therewith, they in the rooms taking no notice, as he could perceive.

But now because Mr. Prance would conceale nothing, but impartially set forth all that happened in this matter, he must not omit the Relation of that Imbecillity (or what sober and unbiaist Judges shall please to call it) which has been so much talkt of, and variously reported.

Most true it is, though the sense of the bloody crime that he had been concern'd in, (in spite of all the Popish Doctrines he had imbib'd) work such Conventions upon Mr. Prance his awaked Conscience, as to make this real Confession; yet by the force thereof, the danger his life was in, the apparent hazard of being utterly undone, together with a certain respect which he still bore towards that Religion he had been bred in, and other selfish Considerations he was once, for avoiding (as he then conceived these dangers, betray'd by humane frailty so far to retract by word of mouth, what he before most truly confessed upon oath, as to say before the King and Council, That he was innocent, and they all (meaning the rest accused) were innocent; and that was the sentence of all he then and there declared in that kind: For which he humbly begs pardon of God, his Majesty, that Honourable Board, and the world. And though he dare not

not go a bout to excuse the same wholly, yet there are several Circumstances that
alleviated it, and render it insignificant to invalidate what he had before
forth. For,

1. What he before declared concerning the murder in manner before herein set
was solemnly upon Oath; this supposed Retraction was suddenly done under con
nation and fear, and not upon Oath.

2. He was at that time under certain danger of his life if he persisted in that C
fession, for he had no pardon granted, nor any certainty of obtaining the same.

3. If he should obtain his pardon, he considered, That yet his Life would be
danger from the revengeful and bloody Priests and Jesuits.

4. His mind was sorely troubled, as with all these dangers, so with this further ap
hension, That if he should escape with his life, yet by this discovery he should lose
livelihood, and in all humane probabillity both he and all his Family be utterly unde
for as he was the Queens Servant, and that his Trade and subsistence chiefly, or in
wholly depended on Her Majesties Custom, (which was certain and considerable)
that of other Roman Catholicks; so it was not to be doubted but the most crafty and
placible Priests would soon use means by false Representations and scandal, to dep
him thereof if he proceeded in this detection.

5. He retained still a certain respect to the Popish Religion in which he had so
been educated; for he had not yet intirely got his soul out of that snare, and there
he did then conceive, being swayed by such powerful Inducements, That he might
fully say, He was innocent, and so they were All; which in Popish construction is no
deny that they killed Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, for that according to their Divinity,
what the said Priests had solemnly declared, was no sin or crime, and consequently
might all in such their Catholick sense still be innocent; yet this he must acknowledge
somewhat doubted, because he had never been at Confession, and received Absolu
since the Fact committed, which all the rest (as some of themselves had declar'd) had do
and so might more preumptoriely persist (as they did) in averring themselves to be
nocent; and he does ingenuously declare, That had he received Absolution, 'tis his
he should never, or not without extream difficulty have been brought to any ackn
ledgment.

These Circumstances, together with a great distemper of body contracted by the in
modities of Confinement, want of Air, &c. occasion'd that sudden revolt of his re
and duty under that perplexity of spirits but as soon as he had done it, Conscience
in his face, and would no longer be laid asleep with any delusive Popish charms, w
he began to recollect himself, the power of Truth dispersed all these temptations of
erest, fear and superstition. If it were true, that he might hazard his Life and lo
Trade, if he did persist in the confession of the Murthers; It was as true, and he sou
by experience, that he should never have peace of Conscience if he denied it.

And therefore he was no sooner returned from the King and council to Newgate (w
coming in a Coach 'tis certain was not half an hour) but he most earnestly requ
Capt. Richards (who had been with him, and heard what he had said that morn
for Gods sake to go back and assure the King and that Honourable Board from him,
the first Confession which he had made on Oath was true in all circumstances;
that whatsoever he had said before them that morning to the contrary, was occasi
only by the consternation, fear, and perplexity of mind he was under, which the Co

immediately did, and had since declared the same upon Oath.
 23. The next day he grew more sick, in so much that his life was despaired of, continuing so for about a week, during this sickness, the Reverend Dr, *Loyd* D. an of *Bath*, was charitably pleased to give him a Visit, and bestowed much pains with him at several times, instructing him in the grounds and reasons of the Protestant Religion, from whose pious admonitions and labours, by the Divine blessing, he reaped much benefit, the comfort and settling of his perplexed Soul, and thinks it his duty, for the sake of publickly to return him his hearty Thanks, Being wholly taken off from the Apostatized bloody *Roman* Church, which he utterly renounces, and doth freely, cordially, and fully embrace the Protestant Religion, and therein particularly submits himself to the Church of *England*, resolving (by Gods Grace) therein to live and die.
 24. After God had been pleased to restore in some measure his health, having given several instances of steadfastness to his first Confession, by making some further Discoveries in the mean time, he was again carried before the Kings most Excellent Majesty and the Right Honourable the Lords of the Council, and there being largely re-examined repeated his former Discoveries, agreeing in all circumstances, and then his Majesty was graciously pleased with his own Royal Lips to give him assurance of his *Gracious* pardon, and soon after the same was perfected in due Form of Law, under the great Seal of *England*. For which with deepest sense of humility and gratitude, he devoted himself ever ready to pay most hearty thanks in all observance and duty, desiring no longer to enjoy that life which he holds by his Royal Favour, than he shall upon occasions employ it to the utmost of his Capacity in his Majesties service, for the sake of his sacred life, the welfare of his Kingdoms, and the interest of the true Protestant Religion.
 But whereas by Popish Adversaries there have been several false and scandalous Reports invented and spread abroad, that he was racked or tortured in *Newgate*, and with usages forced to confess what he did touching the Treasons and Murther afore said, he does declare the same are wholly false, and that on the contrary he did the same only within two days after he was brought in there, and that he received several Comforts from Captain *Richardson* during his Confinement under his Custody.
 And he does protest in the presence of God, the searcher of hearts, before whose judicacious Tribunal we must all appear, that as to the whole Discovery and Evidence hath given, he hath not therein been biased with any malice or sinister ends, nor done any wrong to any of the persons accused, but shall conclude this Impartial Account of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*s Murther, with his most hearty prayers, That as he hath obtained the Kings Majesty's Gracious pardon here on Earth, for his heinous Crime in this necessary to the Death of that innocent worthy Gentleman, so on sincere Repentance and through the only Merits of *Jesus Christ*, he may for the same receive forgiveness from the King of *Heaven* in the World to come. he shew'd
 That as he hath obtained the Kings Majesty's Gracious pardon here on Earth, for his heinous Crime in this necessary to the Death of that innocent worthy Gentleman, so on sincere Repentance and through the only Merits of *Jesus Christ*, he may for the same receive forgiveness from the King of *Heaven* in the World to come. he shew'd

Popish Conspiracy to Murther the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftesbury, and some other Contrivances after Sir Edmondbury Godfrey's Death

After the Murther of Sir Edmondbury Godfrey, and some farther discovery of the Plot, there was no person (next to his Sacred Majesty) against whom the main design of these Popish Conspirators was more directly levelled, than at the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftesbury, as knowing that till so able a Statesman, and vigilant and active, firm to the true Interest of his King and Country, and zealous for the preservation of the Protestant Religion, was taken out of the way, their cursed Machinings would be frustrated, and their wicked designs be rendred ineffectual. And therefore they not only by their Emisaries and Abettors, both formerly and of late, laboured to asperse his Honour, but also entred into a formal Conspiracy and Combination to murther him, and engaged several barbarous Villains to do it; though the Providence of Heaven over his Noble Person, and a timely discovery happened.

About five weeks before William Staley, (lately executed for Treason) was apprehended, Mr. Praunce was with one Mr. Messinger (Gentleman of the Horse to the Duke of Arundel of Worder, and formerly named in this Narrative for a Design to murther his Sacred Majesty) one Prosser a Silver-smith, and one Matteson a Barber then living in Holbourn, all rank desperate Papists, at Mr. Bradleys an Alehouse in Holbourn, where the said Mr. Messinger grievously complained of the severity of the Laws then in force against the Roman Catholicks, expressing his apprehensions that they would not long be rigorously put in Execution against them, by some that were not lovers of their Religion, and particularly he named the Earl of Shaftesbury as one of their most dangerous Enemies, and who did most concern himself about them, and in discovering the Plot, therefore he said, There must be some effectual means used to rid him out of the world, and declared that it was already resolved on.

That about a Fortnight, or near therabouts, before the said Staley's Apprehension, he was in Company with the said Staley, and the said Matteson, at the Cross-Keys Tavern against Mr. Staley's Fathers House, where in discourse they were complaining of the great Afflictions the Catholicks lay under, and what severe Usages they must surely expect, if once this Plot should come to be believed, and be made out against them; and thereupon the said Matteson said, That if they did not take some speedy way to destroy some particular persons that were their most active Enemies, they might ruin the Roman Catholicks in general should be ruined; and therefore in that place (said he) we resolve to kill my Lord Shaftesbury, (whom he then called, The Head of the mischief which they feared would fall upon them:) And further, the said Matteson said, That he would engage three more to assist in that work of killing the said Earl, whose Names he then and there declared; that is to say, one Adamson a Coach-maker, and the said Prosser, and one Bradshaw an Upholsterer.

That some short time after the said Matteson came to Mr. Praunces Shop, and drew a Pistol out of his Pocket, saying, This shall do Shaftesbury's business; declaring that he provided the same on purpose for killing the said Earl.

That afterwards Mr. Praunce met with the before-named Adamson at Mr. Peddars at the White Posts in Vane-street; where discoursing of News, Adamson said, That

were resolved to kill the Lord *Shaftsbury*: Against whom, upon all occasions, both he and the other Persons before nominated, expressed the utmost malice and hatred imaginable, as being, they said, most likely to obstruct and frustrate their designs: Likewise the said *Adamson* another time, not long after, did again express his Design to murder the said Lord, and then owned that he himself in particular was engaged therein, and would kill him as soon as he could get an opportunity: whose words were by him uttered at the Sign of the Gridiron at an Alehouse in *Holbourn*.
About the same time the before-named *Proffer* coming to Mr. *Praunce's* Shop, his wife tell him, That he did resolve to kill the Lord *Shaftsbury*, and assigned this as the provocation which incited him therunto, viz. For that he the said Earl of *Shaftsbury* and some other Protestant Lords, did intend to ruine the Lord *Arundel* of *Warder*, on the account of the Plot, which Lord *Arundel* (as he said) was his the said *Proffer's* very good Friend and Benefactor. And also the said *Proffer* did, at Mr. *Bradley's* House in *Holbourn*, declare, that he was to be an Ensign under the said Lord *Arundel* in the Forces which were to have been raised by the Conspirators, for the subversion of the Government and Expulsion of the Protestant Religion.

6. That the before-named *Bradshaw*, about the same time, viz. the first or second week of *November*, came to Mr. *Praunce's* Shop one day, and in discourse did declare, that he would make no more to kill a Protestant than to Kill a Dog or a Cat, which he pronounced with a great deal of vehemency & earnestness, & said moreover, That he was resolved to dispatch some of those busie heretical Lords, but the first should be Lord *Shaftsbury*: and likewise the said *Bradshaw* pulled out a Pistol and shewed the same to the said Shop, declaring that he had prepared the same to do the said Execution the next day.

7. That the said *Bradshaw* is a violent cruel Papist, of most dangerous principles, and to be employ'd in such assassinating bloody Attempts, appears by this Instance. That about three years ago being with some Company in a Shop in *Dukes-street*, discoursing and seeing a little Child passing by, he voluntarily said, that he would make no more to kill that heretical Child than to kill a Dog.

8. That another time the before-named *Proffer*, at Mr. *Bradley's* House in *Holbourn* did declare, That the before-mentioned Mr. *Messinger* (Gentleman of the Horse to the Lord *Arundel* of *Warder*) was the person that principally promoted the killing of the Lord *Shaftsbury*, and that he himself was engaged therein, and did not doubt but that he should have time to get an opportunity to effect the same.

9. That Mr. *Henry Nevil* is very intimate with the before-mentioned *Proffer*, and has for a long time been aiding and assisting to him, and doth hold a Correspondence with the Lords in the Tower, and with some persons at *Rome*, sending Letters duly thither, and receiving great Packquets back again from thence very frequently; and that one of his Servants having several of the said Letters in his Trunk, the said Mr. *Nevil* about last caused the said Trunk to be broak open (the Fellow being then in the Country) and took a way the said Papers, to prevent any Discovery that might be made thereby.

10. That Mr. *Richard Nevil*, Nephew to the said *Henry Nevil*, did maintain a Correspondence with the Lords in the Tower in a very suspicious manner, viz. Dressing himself in a Coach-mans Habit, he drove his own Coach, wherein rode his Coachman

Equipage of a Gentleman, and taking upon him the Name of Squire Duck; he came to the Tower, this pretended Squire Duck commanded the disguised Coach-man (who was his real master) to go into the Lords, and present his humble Service to them, and to tell them that he came as nigh them as he could, and would be most glad to hear of their good healths; in which disguise the said Nephew went up to their Lordships Lodging, and stayed with them a considerable time, while the true Coach-man remained in the Coach. But soon afterwards the said Duck was removed from that employ of Coach-man and sent away into the Country; for less most probable, that he should discover this and other the like Actions of the said Gentlemen; this Relation came from the said Coach-mans own mouth.

11. That in the month of *October* last Mr. *Prance* met with one Mr. *Coxen* a French Priest, and by Trade a Taylor, who walking together in *Covent-Garden*, and discoursing of News; The said *Coxen* said, that the King and Parliament designed to undo (meaning the Romanists) but, said he, if I were to kill a man, I would kill him as soon as any man, and if we had him in *France* we would have killed him long ago; intending thereby, as he understood him, and as the Natural sense of the expression imports, to magnifie the Courage and Zeal of their French Papists, and ready they would be to kill their King, if he were of another Religion, which he proposed as an Example that he would have English Roman Catholics to imitate at another time, not long after, the said *Coxen* spake the same words, or to the very effect in *Prances* Shop.

brief Detection of the Immoral Behaviour, Cruel Expressions and Vile Practices of several other Popish Priests with whom Mr. P. hath been acquainted.

HAVING thus faithfully and impartially made a candid Discovery, of the several Traiterous and Bloody Intrigues carried on by the Papists, herein before set forth, we shall thereunto add a short Account of the Manners of divers *Romish* Priests, in whom Mr. *Prance* hath had Conversation; which he does protest to do, not out of any malice to their Persons, but out of detestation to their dangerous Principles, lewd Practices, and more especially that others whom Education or crafty Insinuations have brought up in, or inveigled to the *Romish* Communion, may reflect and consider what kind of people they are whom they blindly follow, and thereby be awakened to forsake such wicked and beastly Guides and no longer be led astray by them, to the dishonour of God, scandal of Christian Religion which they pretend to profess, disturbance of Government, danger of their Neighbours, and hard of their own Souls.

1. Amongst many other Priests he had a particular acquaintance with one Mr. *Matthews*, that was Priest to the Lord *Peters*, who was a very bitter Enemy to all Protestants, and hath several times said, *That they* (meaning the Protestants) were all eternally and infallibly damned, and that it was impossible for a Soul of them to be saved; after adding, that to kill any of them was no sin, especially if it were for the interest of the Church; and the like wicked and cruel Expressions: He also in or about the

Month of *August* last, said, That his Lord and the Lord *Bellasis*, with some other
 Catholick Lords, would ere long have a good Army on foot, and that all the Devils
 could not prevent it, but the Catholick Religion would quickly be settled in Eng-
 land. We may believe him, that the Devils would not prevent or hinder it, since it was
 much their Interest to have it establish'd, especially by such bloody and hellish means.
 The conspirators were resolved to make use of for that purpose, but God has hitherto
 and we hope will still, be graciously pleased to prevent their Design. This Gentle-
 man was a great Dealer in Reliques and *Agrippa's* Disc, and hath cheated divers ignorant
 young people (as hath been credibly reported) of considerable sums of Money for such
 rumpety. He hath oftentimes, with much reverence and ceremony, as kissing them,
 shewed Mrs. *Prance* several pieces of Bones, which he said were the Bones of such &c.
 He and Sir *Sutton* whose names he had at his Tongues end, had attributed most
 wonderful Vertues to them, for he hath assigned, That they being worn about one
 could keep the Devil from one, so that not only he should have no power to hurt one
 person, but not so much as to tempt those to sin that carry'd them about them. That if
 tempt they would preserve one from drowning, and if at House were on fire, if you
 in one of them the same would presently stop the fire &c. But as to the last it is appar-
 ent, that he and his brethren, (the Popish Priests and Jesuits) are far more dexterous Artificers
 contriving devices to burn down Houses than to quench them: when on Fire
 there was occasion before for mention *Duc Singleton* a Priest, that declared, He would
 do no more to stab 40 *Parliament* men, than to eat his Dinners, besides his Quality of Priest
 was also a kind of Solicitor or Broker amongst the Papists, making it his business to
 other Peoples money into his hands, and put it out to Use, in which trade he plaid
 Extortioner most egregiously, for all that he could get above the due Interest of 6
 Cent, being to be put in his own Pocket, he would not let 40 or 50 l. out for 12
 months, but he would have 40 s. for procurations, which must be deducted on the first
 ing of the Money, and yet the full legal interest to run on, and besides he always would
 up the Bond himself, and for that business, (for which no Scrivener ever asked above
 4 s.) he would make the poor people pay five Shillings: These Practices of his
 were can affirm on his own knowledge, and there are divers who have dealt with him
 these terms, who can testify the same, and yet this Ghostly Father was a great preacher
 against Covetousness and Usury, but it seems he meant only in others, not himself: For
 in these Cases like wife he allowed himself the like Priviledges, for he would frequently
 Drunk, and stay out till one or two of the Clock in the Morning, or after, and yet go
 some Forenoon to say Mass, and consequently received the Sacrament, which they
 say the People must in no wise be done, unless the party be strictly fasting.
 Mr. *Byfleet* and *Doctor Guilding*, two Priests, have severally declared in Mr. *Hall*
Hookes House, and in divers other places, That they respectively had turned several
 people from the Protestant Religion, and reconciled them to the Church of Rome, in the
 City of London, and that they hoped they should turn many more. They were both per-
 sons of a very vitious Conversation, but sily carried it. *Byfleet* was a mighty magnifier of
 the Vertues and Necessity of Fasting to other People in Lent, Ember-days, &c. but as for
 himself, could frequently, as is well known, dispense with six penny-worth of Victuals
 and a quart or two of Ale, all alone for a Breakfast or Supper on the same day in his
 Ch.m

And Mr. Asler Doctor *Guilding*, he was his cousin, and (they said) had read Philosophy many years at *Doway*, but very much forgot his *Ethicks* in *England*, being so much addicted to lewd Women, that one could not but conclude he received his Ordination from Pope *Joan*, or some of her fulltime Successors.

These two last named, and *Singleton*, were most frequently at Mr. *Hall* the Cook in *Ivy Lane*, and there they dined, and Mr. *Prance* does verily believe, that the many *Papish* Books being above a Cart-load and an half, with the *Priests* Vestments, Images, and other superstitious Trumpery, which were lately found there in Search of his House, did belong to them; And the said *Hall* (as he likewise believes) do not know where they are, or were since they absconded themselves; for which suspicion there are these two grounds. First, Because whenever about *November* or *December* last, he went to speak with *Singleton* or either of the others, he the said *Hall* undertook to take care of his business, and must needs deliver it to *Singleton*, because when he called again he failed to give M. P. an Account of it from him; Secondly, Because Mr. *Hadden* Servant of Doctor *Parrot*, the Superior of Secular *Priests* told him, that alwayes when he came for money to be distributed for Masses for the Dead, *Hall* took the money that was designed for *Singleton*, and convey'd it to him. The meaning of which is thus, when any Roman *Catholic* dies, 'tis probable there is a *Priest* (sometimes two or three) by him, who is desired to fail to put him in mind, and frighten him with the pains of Purgatory, and of the necessity of Masses said to ease and deliver them from the same so much the sooner; so that being therewith terrified, If he be a person of any considerable Quality or Estate, if some money happens, but he leaves so much money to pray his Soul out of Purgatory, then the money is paid in to the Superior, who thereupon according to the Sum, sends to some *Priests* so many shillings a piece, for which they are each to say so many Masses for the deceased; the common price of Mumbling over a Mass being accounted 12 d. And as Mr. Doctor *Parrot*, who is, or lately was the Head of all this sort of *Priests* in *England*, is very credibly informed, That he hath been seen in Bed with a Whore, by the said *Hadden* his Servant who told the same to Mr. *Prance*.

4. But as whoring is counted but a Venial Sin by *Papists* in general; so amongst the more any are more devoted thereunto than their Ghostly Fathers, who rail so loud at the *Protestant* Clergie for having honest Wives of their own. About 3 years ago one *Kelly* a *Priest*, (a Kinsman to the before named *Dominick Kelly*, concern'd in the murder of *Edmund-bury Godfrey*) being just Arrived from *France* or *Flanders*, was brought to lodge at Mr. *Prance*'s house, & the very first night, the maid going up with him to war his Bed, he began to use some Incivilities, which the modestly opposing, he proceeded to violence, and would have Ravisht her, insomuch that she cryed out, and Mr. *Prance* hearing this, hastning up Stairs, and perceiving his rudeness, being affrighted run down again, fearing he would have done her some mischief, and called in some Neighbours, who immediately coming in, caused him to desist: for which M. P. Wife would presently have turned him out of doors, but it being late in the Night, and he wholly a Stranger to the Town; He would not (though he were a Rogue) be so inhospitable to him; but suffered him to stay till morning; However they were obliged to burn Candle all night for fear in Revenge he should do them a Mischief.

5. One *Dowdall* being Colonel *Talbot*'s *Priest* at *Twisnam*, some few years ago, and

that Quality much Entrusted, stole and run a way with the Chalice, Crewet, Bason, Copes, Vestiments, Surplices and other Sacred Gear, provided for him to officiate Mass with, and being wholly a Stranger, exposed the B. son and Crewet to Sale at *Prance's Shop*, who fairly and at a valuable price bought the same. The Priest having received his money, invited him into a Tavern, and afterwards agreed, That he should come next day to his Lodging in *White-Fryers*, and see the V. s.ments, Linnen and other things; which he did and offered him 8 l. but he would not take under 12 or 14. However he would go again to drink, and at last walkt with Mr. P. home, who lead him in a parlour, where there was a little Girl of about 6 years. of Age, whilst he was to attend some customers in the shop, this Goash Priest began to play the Villian to the Child, and would have spoil'd her, (had she not cry'd out): with his impudent Rudeness, which made him run in to see what was the matter and occasioned the Priest to hasten away, and presently shifted his Lodging, for going next day to look for him he was gone, out of fear (as is supposed) of being apprehended for the Robbery, of which yet there was no great danger; For though within a day or two Mr. P. heard of the Robbery, by one that was a servant to the Colonel; yet such was the Colonel's extreme Zeal, and so prevalent above the Resentment of his loss, that (as was by that servant assured) as soon as he discovered what their Priest had done, he called all his people together, and did solemnly charge them not to speak thereof to any person, because if known, it would be a foul scandal to their Religion; Adding if he found any of them should utter a word of it he would run them through; And so secretly (when ones life lies at Stake) almost as firm as that of confession.

About 4 years ago there was one Mr. *Thomas Shepherd* a person related to Mr. *Prance*, being sick, sent to him to procure a Romish Priest to come to him, Mr. *Prance* wondered at his desire, as having always accounted him a Protestant, however it was his Request, and understanding he was very ill, and not likely to live, he did endeavour to get one. And thereupon repaired to Dr. *Hanson* a Carmelite, at *Wild-House* of their Superiours, who directed him to Dr. *Clement Matur*, a Benedictin Monk lodging to the Spanish Ambassadors but lodging then at one *Ireland* a Tobacconist in *Street*, having told him the story, and what a work of Charity it would be to save a man, he readily condescended to go, and did give the man what advice he thought fit. But the sick party being very poor did not give him any money, which as appears he grudged; for next day the man growing still weaker, sent to desire the same Priest again, which purpose Mr. *Prance* went to request his company. But here truly found the old proverb verified, *No penny no Pater Noster* for this charitable Father, told him no, he would not go for he gave him nothing yesterday. Mr. *Prance* urged that so good a work as to redeem a dying Heretick to the Church would reward it self, and be meritorious. He repl'd that he had a Reward in hand, for all that of the other world; For (said he) *they get Heaven for us, and why should not we get money by them?* The other insisted, that the man was poor, and had it not, and that he hoped he would not suffer his Soul to be lost for his Soul; quoth he, do as it will, I am resolv'd not to go to any twice that do not come. And so by no intreaties could be induced to stia; but the poor man soon after dy'd. So sordidly covetous are these people, and notwithstanding all their pretences, they really so little Regard to the Salvation of men, that they would suffer a Soul

perish Eternally) as they say all do, that die out of their Church's Communion, they can get more, by saving it, if indeed (as they impudently pretend) they have power:

There is another Priest that did likewise pretend to belong to the Spanish Ambassadors, his name is *Collins*, who 'tis said is now in Custody, when his Majesty's command came out some years ago, commanding away all Priests (but such as were allowed) And that none of His Subjects should go to hear Mass, this Father got up on the Leads of *Somerset-House*, and there held a Lenten Service, and said Mass, having a great Concourse of People that followed this pretious Salt, when a young Wench has come to him to Confess, he has been seen to get her between his Leggs, and so closely hugg, and kiss her neck, as if it had been part of her Penance to be most filthily smuggled, he is a common frequenter of Bawdy-Houses, and has been observed many times to creep out of such lewd places, in such filthy postures as 'tis a shame here to repeat. There is also one *Davenport* a Fryer, but of what Order, Mr. *France* does not remember, who calls himself, and is usually styled, *Captain Davenport*. He is a kind of a wandering Priest, that rides up and down the Countrys, but chiefly *Notfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Cambridge-shire*, *Wilt*, *Essex*, &c. where he does abundance of mischief in seducing people both from the Protestant Religion, and their Obedience to their Sovereigns: For he makes it his whole business to insinuate, calumniate, unsettle weak heads, abuse the Church of *England*, and its Ministers, and here, magnifying the Holiness, Piety, Charity, &c. of *Rome*, and by such his converting the minds of many: For he has long followed this mischievous practice, and is constant in any place, but always in motion from one Gentleman's house to another, and sometimes amongst people of mean condition, to spread his poison there. As if he deliged to infect the whole Country. He is no doubt a very dangerous man, and no longer ago then the last Summer was Twelve-month, there being a Convention (as they call it, that is, a General Convention) of Fryers held in *Somerset-House*, whether many resorted both from beyond the Seas, and all parts of the Kingdom: On what Design (whether to carry on the Great Work) Mr. *France* knows not. But hath some reason to suspect it was for no good purpose: For seeing abundance of them together, amongst the rest there was this *Captain Davenport*, whom he hath heard say, That he hoped to be a Captain once again in the Catholic Consequence.

There is one *Bully*, a Secular Priest, who formerly did belong to a French Embassy, but of late his Trade has been to run about Hackneying forth of Masses for ever, and a piece at private Houses, where ever he can get Customers. He was mighty in his teaching (as they all do) That people must by no means eat or drink a drop of wine, on which they intend to Receive the Eucharist, before they come to Mass, but they must receive strictly Fasting; Yet hath not only been frequently seen in London to Mr. *Pastor's* in *Duke-street*, call in at an Ale-house, and take his portion of Ale, and so away to Mass; (Now a Priest cannot say Mass, but he himself needs receive.) But also he has been known at play at Cards, Tippling in Company, and Drunk after One o'Clock in the morning at *Redley's* at the *White Posts*, and some day Trudge to Mass and earn a Shilling to furnish a fresh debauch. But the

not all the rare Qualities he has, For he is a notable Whore-monger too; N
the General Report be true that is currant amongst Catholicks) keeps ano
n's wife; which Mr. *Prance* is the rather inclined to believe, because he hath
met them hand in hand in *Cheapside*, and other places.

There is one *Holt* a Secular Priest, that used to officiate at the *Lady Somerset
Inn-Fields*, who is a virulent Enemy to all Protestants, and hath o'ten
heard by Mr. *Prance* to declare, That it is impossible any of them should ever
be. Now how ready a way is this to inflame Papists against them; and how apt
they be to cut their throats, and any way destroy those whom they are alrea
ready to believe are Enemies of God, and nothing but fit fuel for Hell. And t
his was his Design, is most probable both by the violent eagerness of such his Expr
essions, As also because Mr. *Prance* hath often heard him say, That he did not dou
bt to see Heresie rooted out, and the Catholick Religion e're long establisht in E
ngland.

Father *James* an eminent Friar at *Somerset-House* lately deceased, was for several ye
a Confessor to Mr. *Prance*, so that he had with him an intimate Familiarity; Ab
out year and an half ago discoursing with him, He told him, That there would sho
uld be on foot a considerable Force to settle the *Roman Catholick Religion* in E
ngland; And that he did not question but to see it establisht very shortly. Up
on which Mr. *Prance* said to him, That he was confident that could never be do
ne without opposing his Majesties Authority; and it would be a great shame and scan
dal to the *Roman Catholicks*, who had valued themselves so much upon their Loyalty in
former Times, if they now should be Guilty of Rebellion against their King. Whereu
pon he replied, That in the Cause of God there was no Consideration to be had of Pri
vate; That it was no sin to be active to suppress Heresie, and establish the *Cath
olick Doctrine*; For though Obedience was a duty in other Circumstances, yet in t
his case the Obedience to the Church was to be preferred; For the Civil Magistrates m
ust submit to the Spiritual, and might lawfully be resisted, and That it was the Duty
of every Priest to give any man Absolution that should be concerned therein, with a se
veral other Seditious and Traiterous Expressions. And further Mr. *Prance* having
several times fallen into discourse upon some occasions concerning the nature of
Absolution given by him and other Priests, he the said Father *James* did declar
e that such Absolution was a full and perfect Remission of Sin, and such an Acquisi
tion rendered any man as innocent and free from Guilt as the first day he was born, fr
om any actual Transgression. Then he askt him, for Example. If a person should co
mit a Sin, and confess it to him, or any other Priest, and receive an Absolution, a
nd there afterwards taxed or questioned for that Fact, Whether he might with a safe Co
science, and without Sin say he was innocent. To which the said Father *James* repli
ed That if such person had received such Absolution, and performed the Penance impos
ed upon him, he may lawfully say, He was innocent: for, says he, When God by
the mouth of his Priest, has absolved any person, he becomes innocent in the sight of G
od and being so, has no reason to impeach himself by owning of the Crime before man
nor cast a scandal on the Church, which to do would be a greater sin, than to den
y the matter which he is no ways obliged to confess.

these and several other like Discourses to the same purpose and effect, hath the
James declared to Mr. *Praunce*, inquiring his Instructions for the Direction
 of Conscience; whereby may appear, by what measures such men steer the Soul,
 that ignorantly commit themselves to their Conduct; and no wonder it was
 that some persons gasp out their last Breath with pronouncing a Lie, and per-
 severing in the utmost in denial of those Crimes, which both their own Consciences and
 they know them to be guilty of, since they are before hand hardened into a persua-
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Jennings, a Secular Priest, lately living at Mr. *Ramsays* near *Norwich* in *Norfolk*,
 a little after *Midsummer* last, both at Mrs. *Halls* in *Eagle-Court* in the *Strand*, and
 at *Praunces* own Shop, told him, That we should shortly see better times, as
 he did not doubt, but such Roman Catholick Priests as he was, should be allowed
 publicly in Parsons habits. He also hath reconciled several (as he hath acknow-
 ledged) to the Church of *Rome*, and amongst his Acquaintance was very free of *Halls*
 and Prayer-books, and hath been heard to say Mass at Sir *Henry Bewisfields*,
 and *Hall* in *Norfolk*; So that by such his afore said Words, there is good reason
 to think that the said *Jennings* was acquainted with the Plot, nay it is reasonable to think
 that there was not a Priest in *England*, nay scarce any Gentleman of Note, or per-
 son of any Condition of the Roman Catholick Persuasion, but was privy in the
 said Plot and Conspiracy, if not as to the particular Intrigues, yet at least as to the
 general Substance and Designs thereof.

There was one Monsieur *L' Hay* (to the best of Mr. *Praunces* remembrance, that was
 his name) who not much above a year ago retaining to a Foreigner, a Person of
 a low Condition (whose name and Quality is not convenient here to mention) did debauch
 a Woman, and to avoid Charge that he suspected might ensue, by her procuring
 a Child, procured a certain person of his acquaintance to be married unto her.
 After this, privately bargained to commit Adultery with her for so much a time
 as he practised so long without payment, that at last at the rate agreed on, he was
 in her debt, which refusing or avoiding to pay, the Woman impatient to be so
 abused, did repair unto his Lords House, and getting access to him, complained of his
 owing her Twenty pounds; who demanding for what? She, after some trifling
 of pretended modesty, confessed it was for the ill use of her Body; the Gentleman
 surprized, and scarce believing her, askt her when the last time was that he had
 been with her? She answered on *Friday* last about Nine of the Clock in the Fore-
 noon; the Gentleman remembering that his Priest was that day at Mass, told her she
 was certainly mistaken; but she persevering in her story, he called in the Priest, de-
 manding if he owed her any money; which he not being able to deny, nor yet to
 shew on what good account he became so indebted to her, his Master could not but
 find him Guilty, and began to upbraid him, saying, Are not you almost profane
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and that they mutually gave each other Absolution; which is a notable Relation of Whoring, and as 'tis likely often practis'd by these Ghostly Fathers. Mr. Prance doth not aver upon his own knowledge, but knew the said Lay very well, and was most credibly informed and assured of the Truth there-

The foregoing Narrative touching the Murther of Edmund-bury Godfrey, and other Passages relating to the horrid Popish Plot, were written by my Direction, and put into *Method* for the Press, the matter being dictated by me, and taken all along from my mouth: And having since perused it all over, I own the same, and attest the truth of the several particulars and things therein contained, as they are related and set forth.

Miles Prance.

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